



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Industry and Trade
Washington, D.C. 20230

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Mr. Robert R. Bowie
Director
National Foreign Assessment Center
Room 7E44 CIA Headquarters
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bowie:

I would like to express my appreciation to you and the staff of the National Foreign Assessment Center for all your recent efforts aimed at increasing the availability to the U.S. public of CIA research studies and statistical information. We commend this policy because we believe it has contributed importantly to more knowledgeable U.S. business decision-making in several key areas. In particular, U.S. international banks have benefitted substantially from a much improved data base on LDCs and communist countries that is necessary to the formulation of informed international lending policies that often support U.S. exports.

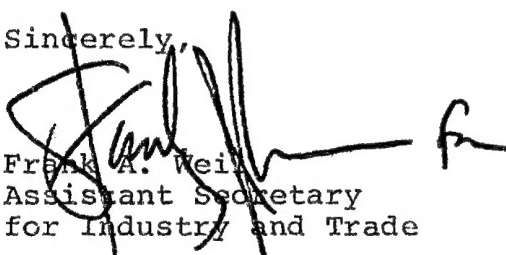
U.S. bank exposure in developing countries currently stands at about \$50 billion, and loans to the U.S.S.R./Eastern Europe presently total about \$6 billion. China is also beginning to explore U.S. money markets. Given the conflict between the banks' desire to finance U.S. exports and their frustration at the limited economic data provided by many of these countries, it is important that U.S. banks have access to whatever information the U.S. Government can provide.

I would like you to know that NFAC publications are being included in Commerce Department information packages mailed periodically to the top 35 U.S. banks active in international lending. These inclusions, we believe, are playing an important and expanding role in this Department's efforts to furnish useful U.S.G. information to the American banking community. NFAC's increased flow of economic information in unclassified form is making a significant contribution

- 2 -

to the objectives outlined in the President's September 26 National Export Policy--a view supported by the many appreciative letters we regularly receive from bankers.

Sincerely,


Frank A. Weil
Assistant Secretary
for Industry and Trade

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY